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LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTION IN DENMARK

Export Prospects with Comparisons

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The Danish agricultural production plant emerged from the war practically in as good shape physically as in prewar years. During the war the occupying authorities encouraged production to the extent that available domestic resources would permit. Although lack of imported feed forced a reduction in livestock numbers, there was no deliberate program of depletion below the level that the Danish land would support. Soil fertility was reduced somewhat through curtailed fertilizer imports, but not to the extent that could be expected had the livestock population been smaller in proportion to the area under cultivation.

SUMMARY

High costs of meat production and inadequate prices, particularly for export bacon, held production down in 1946 and kept the industry from reaching anything like its prewar position. Although the feed situation in Denmark for 1946 showed some improvement over 1945, the world shortage of grain and protein concentrates continued to retard the restoration of the industry. As a result, hog and cattle numbers at the beginning of 1947 were somewhat below the 1946 level. Furthermore, the 1947 meat production is not expected to be much larger than 1946. In 1946, Danish meat exports were about 202 million pounds, an increase of approximately 45 million pounds, but less than half of the 1934-38 average. Notwithstanding the fact that meat exports for 1946 increased over

1945, it is doubtful that the exports for 1947 will increase. Increases in prices to producers and availability of imported feeds cannot be reflected in larger bacon exports before late in 1947 or in 1948.

PRODUCTION COSTS

During the crop years of 1944-45 and 1945-46, the outlay for labor on selected non-mortgaged farms of various sizes averaged about 39 and 41 percent respectively of the total expenditures. Farm labor costs, according to Danish sources, have advanced approximately 11 percent per hectare in 1945-46 over the preceding year. Other cost items, notably feed concentrates, also advanced, but the additional outlay involved was relatively smaller compared to that involved in the larger labor bill.

Better management and a carefully planned mechanization program are expected to compensate somewhat for higher labor costs. Mechanization of the average size Danish farm, according to a Danish authority, must proceed slowly. The larger farm holdings bear relatively larger labor burdens than do the smaller farms utilizing mostly family labor, but the larger farms can more readily be adapted, extensively, to mechanical operation. On the other hand, the smaller holdings are producing the greater share of the national output and establish the national farming pattern.

FEED SITUATION

The domestic feed supply situation for livestock in Denmark appears better than the average. All grain, except rye, and all roots turned out better in 1946 than in other recent years. Despite poor hay crops, the total feed value of grains, roots and hay produced in 1946 was slightly larger than in 1945 which also exceeded the averages for the periods 1934-38 and 1939-43 to about the same extent. Supplies of domestic winter feed were reported as being improved. While the 1946 imports of feedstuffs were larger than in 1945, they were much smaller than in 1939. The 1946 imports were about 35 percent of the 1939 imports.

Denmark cannot supply substantially larger quantities of livestock products to Britain without importing more feed. Moreover, relatively high costs of both domestic and imported feed are leading factors in the current Danish position that Britain should pay higher prices for Danish products. Britain, on the other hand, desires to obtain larger supplies, preferably at no increase in price. Availability of feed, however, would not necessarily solve the problem of export prices and subsidies. With domestic production costs admittedly high, the use of high-cost imported feed might still result in the pricing of export products at levels unacceptable to the United Kingdom.

HOGS

Hog and Bacon Production

The trend in hog numbers from the beginning of 1944 to the end of 1946 was somewhat erratic, but the general trend was downward except for marked upturn in breedings in mid-1945, following the end of hostilities in Europe. For most of 1946, the number of bred sows was less than half of the 1936-39 average and the decline, especially from levels in 1944, reflects fairly accurately the unpopularity of the export prices for bacon that prevailed in 1946. The February 8, 1947 census showed only the usual increase in bred sows over the low point of autumn 1946.

The lower level of breedings in 1946 cannot be ascribed to a further deterioration in feed supplies as crops were good in 1945 and somewhat better in 1946. Also, the increased production of dairy products has made available more skim milk for pig feeding. A more attractive price incentive may bring hog numbers back to at least the 1944 level, with a corresponding increase in potential bacon production. The low level of sow numbers at the beginning of 1947, however, will prevent much increase in bacon production before 1948.

As a result of the upturn in breedings in mid-1945, pork production during 1946 totaled 430 million pounds, an advance of 14 percent over the comparable 1945 figures. Hog slaughter of 1.7 million head in 1945 was somewhat smaller than 1944, and is only about two-fifths of the 1934-38 average. For 1946, exports of bacon and fresh pork reached 134 million pounds, as compared with 107 million pounds a year earlier. The bacon exports were made chiefly to Great Britain and most of the relatively small amount of fresh pork was exported to the Soviet Union. In 1945, fresh pork represented more than half of the total movement, chiefly to Germany, prior to liberation.

Returns for hogs averaged about the same in 1946 as in 1945. In December 1946, however, hogs were bringing \$27.45 per 100 pounds slaughtered weight, an increase of about 12 percent over December 1945. The fixed price to Danish producers was placed at \$27.45, and the domestic wholesale price at \$24.61 per hundred pounds.

The July 1946 Anglo-Danish Trade Agreement, now in effect, fixed Danish prices on bacon, butter and eggs exported to United Kingdom up to the end of September 1950. The Agreement provided for a price for bacon of \$26.97 per 100 pounds, an increase of \$1.80 over the previous price of \$25.17 per 100 pounds. Denmark agreed to deliver 90 million pounds of bacon in 1946 and at least 90 percent of the total bacon exports in the first 9 months of 1947. Prices of bacon, (as well as butter and eggs) when exported to the United Kingdom are lower than the guaranteed prices the Danish producers receive, and are also lower than prices the Danish consumers pay. This program requires the expenditure of considerable sums by the Danish Government in order to maintain the guaranteed prices.

The capacity of the Danish Government to subsidize such a large part of its exports is not unlimited. Current negotiations, however, may result in somewhat higher prices, and therefore reduce subsidies on the exports to Britain, but there seems little likelihood of complete elimination of subsidies in the immediate future, despite the recent declaration by the Minister of Agriculture that subsidies

have no place in the Government's long-range policies. Details of Danish and British negotiations have not been made public but press reports indicate that the United Kingdom will pay higher prices for Danish bacon in 1947. It also is suggested that the higher prices are contingent upon assurance that all of the higher prices go to Danish producers as an incentive to increase production for export.

Export Situation

The Agricultural Council anticipates that the 1947 exports of bacon and pork will be about equal to the 1946 level. In 1946, domestic consumption was placed at 170 million pounds, and at present, it is expected that there will be no reduction in the 1947 rate of consumption.

The 1947 monthly hog slaughter rate is expected to be about the same as that of 1946, which was 17 percent higher than the 1945 monthly rate. Slaughter in January 1947 was almost 96 percent of January 1946. If breeding operations continue restricted or are reduced further and the slaughter rate anticipated for 1947 is realized, smaller hog numbers seem certain. The breeding situation continues to reflect the unfavorable relationship between pork export prices and feed prices. If Britain continues unwilling to pay higher prices for bacon, it seems certain that hog breeding in Denmark will remain restricted as long as world grain supplies remain relatively short.

CATTLE

Cattle and Beef Production

Total cattle numbers in Denmark, as of January 1, 1947, showed a decline from a year earlier of 87,000 head, and 116,000 head below the 1934-38 average. Out of a total of 2,954,000 head reported for 1947, slightly more than half are cows. The number of cows in December 1946 decreased 2,000 head over a year previous and a further decrease is anticipated in 1947.

During 1946, beef and veal production of 375 million pounds was more than 30 percent larger than the comparable 1945 figures. Exports during the year advanced to nearly 63 million pounds as compared with about 46 million pounds in 1945. About one-third of these exports went to the British military in Germany. In 1945, approximately one-eighth of Denmark's beef exports were exported to Germany and very little exporting occurred for some months after the end of the war, but considerable beef was exported toward the end of the year.

Live cattle exports also advanced sharply in 1946 to reach 133,000 head, Germany taking nearly 53,000 head under military auspices. In 1946, Danish cattle and beef exports were much more widely distributed in Europe than in earlier years. The Agricultural Council estimated 1945 exports of live and slaughtered cattle at 141,000 head, and 285,000 head for all of 1946, when there was a somewhat larger surplus than usual as a result of the 1945 interruption in the movement to Germany.

The slaughter of cattle and sheep in Danish export houses was well maintained during the earlier years of the war and even showed a steady increase from 1943 through 1945. The 1944 and 1945 slaughter of cattle and sheep was considerably above prewar. As transportation and other difficulties handicapped the export of live cattle, total slaughter in Denmark in 1945 exceeded the previous high number of 1.01 million head reached in 1942. Slaughter of sheep, lambs and goats in 1945 totaled 156,743 head as compared with the previous high of over 104,000 head in 1944; both years greatly exceeded slaughterings of former years. A tight meat situation in Europe during the past several years has resulted in an increase in the slaughter of Danish horses.

Export Situation

For 1947, the Agricultural Council expects cattle and beef exports to represent the movement of 275,000 head, of which about 150,000 head will move as live cattle. In order to reach that figure, however, Denmark has to continue the 12.5 percent reduction in domestic beef consumption in effect since October 1946. British inquiry for Danish beef for home consumption is an important element in the currently reduced Danish consumption, which is accomplished by allocating supplies to dealers, and not by rationing to consumers.

TABLE 1.--Number of livestock on farms, 1946, with comparisons

Year	Cattle <u>a/</u>		Hogs <u>a/</u>	Sheep <u>b/</u>	Goats <u>b/</u>	Horses <u>b/</u>
	Total	Cows				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1934-38 Average	<u>c/</u> 3,070	<u>c/</u> 1,636	3,108	<u>d/</u> 187	<u>e/</u>	536
1939	3,150	1,625	2,706	143	8	577
1940	3,186	1,618	3,134	<u>e/</u>	<u>e/</u>	575
1941	2,976	1,511	1,968	<u>e/</u>	<u>e/</u>	589
1942	2,833	1,403	1,691	182	<u>e/</u>	590
1943	2,760	1,385	1,605	180	<u>e/</u>	601
1944	2,933	1,469	2,291	195	<u>e/</u>	609
1945	3,036	1,532	1,819	<u>f/</u> 205	<u>e/</u>	612
1946	3,041	1,536	1,777	<u>f/</u> 170	<u>e/</u>	622
1947	2,954	1,534	1,660	-	-	-

Compiled from Official Sources.

a/ January 1. b/ July 15, not available for January 1 census. c/ 4-year average only. d/ 1937 only. e/ Not available. f/ Unofficial estimate.

TABLE 2.--Number of hogs on farms,
January 1, 1947, with comparisons

Year	Sows		Suckling pigs	Bears	Slaughter: hogs	Total
	Bred	Total				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1934-38 Average	238	356	665	20	2,067	3,108
1939	225	329	603	17	1,757	2,706
1940	242	370	804	17	1,943	3,134
1941	132	210	350	11	1,397	1,968
1942	92	172	326	9	1,184	1,691
1943	124	190	334	9	1,072	1,605
1944	149	239	477	10	1,565	2,291
1945	106	173	351	8	1,287	1,819
1946	127	201	391	8	1,177	1,777
1947	128	191	347	8	1,114	1,660

Compiled from Official Sources.

TABLE 3.--Slaughter of livestock in export houses
Average 1934-38, annual 1939-46

Year	Cattle and Calves				Hogs	Sheep, Lambs, and Goats	Horses
	Cattle	Fat Calves	Young Calves	Total			
	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
Average							
1934-38	279,491	215,044	338,517	833,052	4,354,771	78,132	<u>a/</u> 11,154
1939	331,569	252,307	278,222	862,098	4,072,927	75,135	13,664
1940	301,691	249,358	308,106	859,155	3,405,358	46,578	12,465
1941	290,152	233,144	284,753	808,049	2,203,400	46,230	11,370
1942	429,701	274,596	310,826	1,015,123	1,307,084	68,938	14,711
1943	307,462	220,702	318,682	846,846	1,576,205	86,553	18,235
1944	347,908	251,362	383,699	982,969	2,307,319	104,399	16,824
1945	437,438	276,388	369,453	1,083,279	1,740,278	156,743	24,181
1946	457,261	356,756	417,414	1,231,431	2,043,491	170,473	36,095

Compiled from Official Sources.

a/ 4-year average only.

TABLE 4.--Production of meat^{a/}, in 1946, with comparisons

Year	Beef and Veal	Pork	Mutton and Lamb	Horse	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1934-38 Average	316	675	6	9	1,006
1939	366	682	6	10	1,064
1940	467	712	4	9	1,192
1941	361	419	4	8	792
1942	330	286	5	11	612
1943	227	405	7	13	652
1944	288	486	8	12	794
1945	287	378	12	17	694
1946 ^{b/}	375	430	12	22	839

Compiled from Official Sources.

a/ Carcass meat - excludes edible offal.

b/ Preliminary.

TABLE 5.--Exports of live cattle and hogs by destination
Average 1934-38, Annual 1939-1946

Country	Average 1934-38	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head	1000 head
<u>Cattle</u>									
Germany	108.3	150.0	368.8	270.2	126.1	67.1	130.7	31.3	52.8
Belgium	12.6	6.3	-	-	0.3	-	-	6.0	31.3
Italy	2.0	6.9	3.5	9.3	7.6	-	-	-	-
Others	5.1	-	0.4	-	4.3	-	-	b/ 2.1	b/ 49.0
Total	128.0	163.2	372.7	279.5	138.3	67.1	130.7	39.4	135.1
<u>Hogs</u>									
Germany	101.7	135.5	747.4	247.3	52.7	48.8	92.4	9.9	-
Austria	5.7	d/	d/	d/	d/	d/	d/	d/	c/
Switzerland	4.3	1.5	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	c/
France	2.6	a/	-	-	-	-	-	-	c/
Others	0.8	0.1	e/ 4.8	-	-	-	0.1	-	c/
Total	115.1	137.1	754.0	247.3	52.7	48.8	92.5	9.9	f/

Compiled from Official Sources.

a/ If any, included with others. b/ Includes 2,112 and 2,369, respectively, to France in 1945 and 1946. c/ Not available. d/ Included with Germany. e/ All to Norway. f/ 33 head only.

TABLE 6.--Exports of meats by destination,
Average 1934-38, Annual 1939-1946

Country	Average: 1934-38	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
<u>Beef and Veal</u>									
<u>Fresh and Frozen</u>									
Netherlands	13.2	5.9	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	a/
Germany	7.6	21.1	12.2	12.0	9.6	2.0	7.6	6.5	a/
Belgium	3.7	14.8	11.7	-	-	-	-	5.9	5.4
Others	3.5	2.3	0.1	0.5	-	-	4.3	b/34.0	57.3
Total	28.0	44.1	27.4	12.5	9.6	2.0	11.9	46.4	62.7
<u>Salted, Total</u>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	c/	-	c/	-
<u>Total, Beef & Veal</u>	28.1	44.2	27.5	13.1	9.7	2.0	11.9	46.4	62.7
<u>Pork</u>									
<u>Fresh d/</u>									
Germany	6.5	17.4	52.3	59.5	20.2	111.4	142.1	a/	a/
Italy	1.4	-	-	2.9	0.4	0.7	-	a/	a/
Sweden	e/	-	0.1	5.6	-	-	10.6	a/	a/
Others	3.5	1.7	0.5	1.5	0.3	-	1.6	a/	a/
Total	11.4	19.1	52.9	69.5	20.9	112.1	154.3	35.7	f/ 17.3
<u>Bacon</u>									
United Kingdom	415.6	405.2	101.8	-	-	-	-	39.3	104.0
Germany	c/	-	158.2	73.0	16.9	24.6	58.1	a/	a/
Norway	e/	-	0.9	0.1	0.4	-	5.9	a/	a/
Others	0.1	-	0.2	2.1	0.1	-	1.1	32.4	12.8
Total	415.7	405.2	261.1	75.2	17.4	24.6	65.1	71.7	116.8
<u>Other, Not Fresh g/</u>									
Germany	1.1	1.0	1.8	5.6	2.5	2.1	3.1	a/	a/
Norway	0.1	0.2	0.4	7.0	2.1	-	0.3	a/	a/
Finland	e/	e/	1.3	3.8	1.5	0.1	0.5	a/	a/
Others	0.6	4.5	0.9	3.0	0.1	-	c/	a/	a/
Total	1.8	5.7	4.4	19.4	6.2	2.2	3.9	2.8	4.9
<u>Total Pork</u>									
Germany	7.6	19.6	212.3	138.1	39.6	138.1	203.3	a/	a/
United Kingdom	416.8	408.0	101.9	-	-	-	-	a/	a/
Italy	1.4	-	-	2.9	0.4	0.7	-	a/	a/
Norway	0.1	c/	1.4	8.5	2.8	-	6.2	a/	a/
Sweden	e/	c/	0.1	7.7	c/	c/	10.6	a/	a/
Finland	-	-	1.4	4.1	1.6	0.1	1.3	a/	a/
Others	3.0	2.4	1.3	2.8	0.1	-	11.9	a/	a/
Total	428.9	430.0	318.4	164.1	44.5	138.9	233.3	110.2	139.0

Compiled from Official Sources.

a/ Not available. b/ Principally to United Kingdom and Sweden. c/ Less than 100,000 pounds. d/ Includes heads and feet. e/ If any, included with Others. f/ Principally to Soviet Union. g/ Includes cured hams and, beginning with 1939, canned hams.

TABLE 7.--NUMBER OF HOGS ON FARMS BY 6 WEEKS CENSUSES, BY PRINCIPAL CLASSES,
1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947 with Comparison
with 1936-39 Averages

Classes of Hogs and Years	TIME OF CENSUSES													
	Jan. 1 Average: Range:	Feb. 8 - 13 Dec. 28-Jan. 3	Feb. 11 Feb. 8 - 13	Mar. 24 Mar. 21 - 27	May 5 May 2 - 8	June 17 June 13 - 19	July 15 July 13 - 18	Aug. 26 Aug. 24 - 29	Oct. 7 Oct. 5 - 10	Nov. 18 Nov. 16 - 21				
Total Sows	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000				
Average 1936-39	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head				
1944	351	362	377	377	379	379	376	366	355	343				
1945	239	229	220	220	207	202	203	196	195	180				
1946	173	161	160	160	b/ 167	167	196	200	213	209				
1947	201	196	199	199	200	d/ 198	191	191	194	189				
1947	195	198	198	198	200	d/ 198	191	191	194	189				
Bred Sows														
Average 1936-39	238	248	256	256	259	250	244	227	219	220				
1944	149	142	132	132	125	127	129	120	116	106				
1945	106	96	98	98	b/ 112	112	140	136	128	125				
1946	127	125	123	123	114	d/ 120	120	117	115	116				
1947	120	131												
Suckling Pigs														
Average 1936-39	634	652	741	741	725	778	794	768	741	649				
1944	477	463	489	489	443	394	394	415	417	386				
1945	351	332	348	348	b/ 311	d/ 410	337	306	492	477				
1946	391	363	426	426	b/ 450	d/ 410	377	401	426	403				
1947	351	382												
Pigs and Slaughter Hogs														
Average 1936-39	1,969	1,861	1,829	1,829	1,824	1,870	1,946	2,082	2,135	2,112				
1944	1,565	1,573	1,572	1,572	b/ 1,449	1,393	1,443	1,485	1,526	1,414				
1945	1,287	1,191	1,105	1,105	b/ 1,074	d/ 1,228	1,075	1,105	1,084	1,188				
1946	1,177	1,213	1,211	1,211	1,260	d/ 1,228	1,192	1,250	1,278	1,247				
1947	1,133	1,115												
Total Hogs														
Average 1936-39	2,962	2,894	2,967	2,967	2,947	3,046	3,134	3,235	3,199	3,122				
1944	2,291	2,276	2,281	2,281	2,079	1,999	2,049	2,106	2,148	1,989				
1945	1,819	1,692	1,621	1,621	b/ 1,560	d/ 1,845	1,617	1,675	1,798	1,883				
1946	1,777	1,781	1,844	1,844	1,919	d/ 1,845	1,768	1,851	1,907	1,848				
1947	1,637	1,704												

Compiled from Official Sources.

a/ April 7. b/ May 26. c/ Beginning February 9, 1946, data represents census returns for the whole country, including parishes and burroughs. d/ June 8.

